Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 29, with the following rewritten paragraph:

An automatic blood analysis and identification system includes a carrier unit that has a means for holding at least one container within the unit (allowing for analysis of single or multiple samples) and a printer disposed within the unit. The printer is capable of printing information onto the ~~at least one~~ container.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The ~~at least one~~ container may be transparent and may further include a radio frequency identification (RFID) inlet or receiver (i.e., chip & antenna). The container may include a printable surface upon which the printer can directly print or, alternatively, a label upon which the printer can directly print.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The ~~at least one~~ container may be transparent and may further include an RFID inlet. The container may further include a printable surface upon which the printer can directly print or, alternatively, a label upon which the printer can directly print. The determined characteristics of the sample may be transmitted to the RFID inlet on the container.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The carrier unit 12 also includes a means 16 for holding at least one sample container 18, in the form of a conventional vacuum container or vacutainer, within the carrier unit 12, such as at least one slot 20 located on a surface of the carrier unit 12 although a plurality of slots 20 are preferred such that multiple samples from the same individual can be identified concurrently. For example, the carrier unit 12 illustrated in FIGS. 1 and 2 includes three slots 20 and each slot 20 is capable of holding a single container 18. The slots 20 of a particular carrier unit 12 may come in a variety of sizes so that the carrier unit 12 is able to accommodate sample containers 18 of various sizes. The number of slots 20 in a particular unit 12 may vary. For example, some units 12 may only have one slot 20 while other units 12 have two, three, four ~~slot~~ slots 20 and so on.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The photo-analyzer 14 analyzes a blood sample within the ~~at least one~~ container 18, and electronically sends information regarding the determined characteristics of the blood sample, such as blood type and Rh factor, to the printer 22 via the control unit. The blood sample information is associated with the patient's identification information and stored in the memory of the control unit. The photo-analyzer 14 illustrated in FIG. 2 includes a detector, three scanners, and three scanning beams passing through a container 18 holding a blood sample. The number of scanners and scanning beams may vary depending on the particular photo-analyzer 14 used. Each slot 20 may be assigned a particular set of scanning beams or a single set of scanning beams may be used for every slot 20 in the carrier unit 12.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Prior to photo-analysis of the blood sample, identification data associated with the source of the sample (such as a blood donor) may be communicated to the carrier unit 12 via RFID or the barcode reader technology, as discussed above. Alternatively, other possible methods of communicating identification data to the unit 12 include voiceprint, retinal scan, and fingerprints. All identification data (e.g., patient/donor name, identification number, etc.) and determined characteristics (e.g., blood type, Rh factor, etc.) of the blood sample may be printed onto the sample container 18 by the printer 22. In addition to the imprinted identification data, the printer 22 may also print a Barcode imprint on the container 18 or store RFID data on a chip on the container 18.